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## Purchasing

## Computers, business systems and office products

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## Abstract (Document Summary)

The 1996 annual review of software packages that can increase the efficiency of the full-spectrum of purchasing tasks is presented. Numerous products are reviewed.

Full Text (6397 words)

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Here's our annual review of software packages that can increase the efficiency of the full-spectrum of purchasing tasks. For more information from suppliers, refer to the telephone and fax numbers at the end of each description.

Acquion. Global Electronic Trading Services (GETS) is a proprietary electronic commerce system developed to streamline supply chain management. It links buyers, suppliers, distributors, manufacturers, and financial institutions around the world, producing an integrated trading community in realtime. It is a Windows-based, client/ server application with user "point and click" functionality. GETS consists of three modules: electronic catalogs, both private and public, for searching through and requisitioning from supplier catalogs; Global Bid Board, for buying custom-engineered items or large catalog quantities; and SurplusLink, an Internet-based service for buying and selling surplus and excess inventory internally and externally. Tel: (864) 2814646; Fax: (864) 281-4576; E-mail: acquion.com

ADP.GSI. TOLAS software offers a variety of modules, including purchase order management and purchasing analysis. Users select only applications that are suitable to their needs. Purchase order management module

has PO writing and tracking capability and can monitor PO status down to the line item level. Included are supplier performance and **procurement** support modules which maintain a database of suppliers for each item and can generate user/supplier item number cross reference lists, best leadtime analysis, best price analysis, and most current analysis. Also included is Access-Master, a Windows-based "bridge" that imports the entire Stock Master database into Microsoft's Access database management system. This allows users to perform their own queries, design reports and analysis, and set up purchasing documents specific to their needs. Tel: (714) 723-0582; Fax: (714) 675-5325.

Armor Systems. Purchase Orders, part of the Armor Advantage series software package, automatically creates POs for items below minimum quantity, prints a forecast of items to be received, and posts orders and receipts to **Inventory** Control in real time. Users can order/receive items for multiple warehouses, process **inventory** and non-**inventory** items, and print supplier SKU numbers on the order. Purchase Orders allows users to plan for future deliveries, and track item and purchase order status. Other modules include Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, General Ledger, **Inventory** Control, Billing, Order Entry, Fixed Assets, and Report Generator. Tel: (407) 323-9787; Fax: (407) 330-0442.

Bellwether. Purchasing Management Extra (PMX-2) is a full function purchasing system for PCs and PC networks. PMX-2 includes the following modules: Purchasing (with supplier management, PO generation, PO history, and management reports); Receiving (receipt entry, open/overdue order tracking, and supplier performance ratings); Requisitions (requisition entry and automatic conversion to POs); **Inventory (inventory** balances tracked at multiple **inventory** warehouse locations); Request for Quotations (RFQ generation for preferred suppliers, supplier bid entry, and conversion of successful suppliers' RFQ to PO); Accounts Payable interface (online matching of invoice to the PO and receipts, and transfer of "matched" to invoices to AP system for payment); Fax (POs and RFQs faxed directly to the supplier's fax machine). PMX-2 can be implemented in modules or as a complete system. Tel: (502) 426-5463; Fax: (502) 423-8963.

Bristol Information Systems. The BISiness Purchase Order Management System provides features and functions to control every aspect of purchasing from order through receipt. Purchase Order Master File can be updated quickly and directly with all input edited as it is entered. Features include: direct online output to BIS Accounts Payable, General Ledger, and Cost Ledgers; complete system back-up procedures, computer-printed worksheets for new suppliers; and blanket order controls (at orders, receipts, or invoice processing). Tel: (800) 984-8600; Fax: (713) 242-9309.

Charleston Financial Services. PURCHA\$ING AT A GLANCE for DOS and Windows is a PC/LAN software program that streamlines the generation of requisitions and POs for items located in **inventory** as well as capital purchase items. Supply catalog is system-generated and continually updated. The program alerts the user when to reorder **inventory** items and combines requisitions from multiple departments onto a single PO. Back-ordered items are automatically routed to the correct department or drop-shipped to the desired destination. Materials received may be loggedin by item or PO. Delivery lists are system generated. System tracks expenses of each department on a monthly, quarterly, yearly, or other periodic basis. A purchasing history can be generated. It maintains a perpetual **inventory**, reporting on its value and quantity as desired. It also reports and graphs usage of stock items. Tel: (800) 7927224; Fax: (803) 529-5712.

Ocincom. CONTROL:Purchasing manages all buying activities from RFQs through receiving and online history. It provides control, access to shared information, and integration with manufacturing and accounts payable, while minimizing clerical effort. Modules include: Purchased Item Definition, Vendor Definition and Sourcing, Quotation and Bid Management, Requisition Creation and Tracking, Purchase Order Management, Receiving Control, Invoice Matching, Vendor Analysis, EDI Support, and Online History. Buyer's Workbench provides information needed for buyers to complete their daily activities efficiently. Tel: (800) 543-3010; Fax: (513) 481-8332.

Client Server Technologies Inc. Continuum Purchase Order Management, an integrated client/ server module, is part of the Continuum Distribution series. Continuum PO allows the user to process any order type quickly and easily through the use of Continuum's Order Configurator included in this module. The PO Configurator controls processing events and the sequence that each order type is processed through the system. Matrix PO Inquiry provides the user with current information helD analyze purchase history. Included with Continuum PO is Document Writer, which allows the user to create and customize purchasing documents. Features include: Vendor Performance, Facsimile Integration, EDI Export Capabilities, Automatic Pricing, Additional Charge Processing, Order Copying, Automatic Replenishment, and Invoice Matching. Tel: (617) 6221414; Fax: (617) 622-1456; E-mail: sales@cstisoft.com

ClientSoft. ClientBuilder is a legacy extension and workflow reengineering development toolkit for building graphical user interfaces (GUIs) to purchasing and financial host applications. It's deployed on Windows, Macintosh, and OS/2 clients accessing mainframe, AS/400, and SQL data sources. ClientBuilder 4.5 also can be used as middleware with most Windows-based development tools including Visual Basic, Visual Age, PowerBuilder C++, etc. through its library of proprietary DLLS and DDE links. ClientSoft says it offers developers "a simple way of using the industry's only objectbased, event-driven, fuzzy logic data stream recognition middleware to reliably integrate other desktop development tools with enterprise wide host-based data." Tel: (914) 6315365; Fax: (914) 631-6930; E-mail: info@clientsoft.com

Command Line. CLC-PM4 features user-defined inventory, purchasing, and supplier item masters and can include items to be tracked. Multiuser, PC-based real-time system creates POs automatically or semi-automatically for repetitively ordered or one-time only items including multisite delivery points, different due dates, quantities, and prices, with a minimum of key strokes. Change orders are handled rapidly with fully printed documentation. A screen display history of past purchases for repetitively purchased items is maintained. A purchasing requisition system can be provided, with allocations made by line item or total req against specific GL accounts. Reqs can be converted into RF(as or POs; old reqs or POs can be converted into new reqs or POs. Electronic approvals can be linked to budget or departmental authority, with automatic routing. Invoice processing module electronically matches PO, receipt, and invoice. System also accommodates advance payments, credits, freight charges, taxes, ERS (pay on receipt), etc. Payment information can be automatically uploaded to the AP and/or GL system. Tel: (908) 738-6500; Fax: (908) 738-6504.

Commerce. PurchaseSQL is a Windows-based client/server purchasing and requisition management system. Requisitioners select items from the Master Item catalog or generate new items. Items also can be searched from external supplier databases or can be accessed using CD-ROM. System automatically creates a formal requisition that can be routed through an approval process before being electronically released to the purchasing module. PurchaseSQL provides tools to source potential suppliers, generates RFQs, selects suppliers, and issues POs. System routes all PO information to the receiving module. It provides an automatic shipment problem report module, which enables the receiver to fax or EDI a preformatted problem report to the supplier. Receiving data is routed to the shipment module so items can be delivered to the initiating requisitioner. System creates an export file of accounts payable and GL financial data which can be imported into most accounting systems. Tel: (800) 447-7172; Fax: (914) 592-2109.

Credit Card Solutions. P-Card Solution 3.0 is a robust client/server software product that automates all aspects of the purchasing card process. It interfaces with the feed from any purchasing card provider (<sup>(D)</sup><u>American Express</u>, <sup>(D)</sup><u>MasterCard</u>, or <sup>(D)</sup><u>Visa</u>) and is specifically tailored to fit the user's operating environment and financial system. P-Card Solution allows each cardholder to receive his statement electronically at his workstation. Cardholders have capability of splitting a transaction into different item descriptions and valid charge codes. The software also features an online order log, which can be automatically imported with the electronic statement. When reconciliation is complete, P-Card Solution generates reports for management approval and sends costs directly to the financial system. Software consists of four modules: Administration, Reconciliation, Supplier, and Receiving. Tel: (509) 375-3268, ext. 314; Fax: (509) 375-4771.

 Dun & Bradstreet. SmartStream Procurement's distributed architecture networks multiple business units for leverage. Automated processes reduce the length of procurement cycles-and employee workload. System accommodates pay-on-receipt, EDI, and procurement cards. It also provides features to evaluate and analyze supplier stability and performance. SmartStream Procurement allows users to complete requisitions via the corporate Intranet. No special software is required. Through the applet, users have access to central databases for online catalogs. Tel: (404) 239-2000; Fax: (404) 290-7374; E-mail: solutions@dbsoftware.com

Dynamic Software. QPII is a fully integrated purchasing management and **inventory** control system available in two versions: QPII 3.5, a valuepriced system for DOS and LANs; new QPII Gold, a premium system for Windows, DOS, Client/Server, Unix, VAX, and AS/400 systems. Both levels manage the purchasing cycle from requisitioning through receiving to invoice matching. Requisitioners can enter requisitions and check the status of POs online. QPII guides buyers through approval processing and supplier selection and automatically creates RFQs or POs from requisitions. Supplier quotes can be automatically converted to POs. QPII has a special program for managing supplier communications and maintains a "to-do" list of all scheduled buyer activities. System maintains complete **inventory** transaction and cost history and automatically generates re-order recommendations. It also maintains supplier performance ratings. Tel: (800) 627-1218; Fax: (864) 879-1233.

Electronic Purchasing Infor mation Corporation (EPIC). CONNECTSUS from EPIC, an affiliate of OThomas

<u>Publishing Company</u>, is a client/server system that connects buyers and suppliers through a streamlined, unbiased online **procurement** and information management system. Buyers can research and compare products, enter orders online and transmit multiple orders simultaneously via EDI. CONNECTSUS enables suppliers to load their products into a database using the Thomas unique classification system, update product information, receive orders, and improve service to existing and potential customer. Tel: (212) 6133400; Fax: (212) 613-3449.

Excel Business Systems. SMARTBUYER base module includes Request for Bid, POs (standard, repeat, blanket, and supplier catalog), Tracking, Receiving, multi-level Electronic Approval, Flexible Reporting, EDI, and Data Import/Export. Individual line items can be split to different charge-tos, ship-tos, and delivery dates. Online item, supplier, and charge-to histories/evaluations are available. The Requisitioning module includes consolidations of similar items, multi-level electronic approval, and interface to electronic mail systems. The Inventory module provides for multiple storage locations, low stock warning, and automatic reorders. Tel: (800) 586-5876; Fax: (914) 238-9643.

Falcon. Blue Chip MRO Materials Management System is a comprehensive purchasing and **inventory** control software system designed with special requirements of maintenance, repair, and operational (MRO) inventories in mind. System supports the complete **procurement** cycle, for both stock and non-stock materials, from the creation of the requisition through the bid process, purchase, receipt, and issue from stock. Included modules are Requisitions, Request for Quote, **Blanket Order** Contracts, Purchase Order, Stock Room Control, Tool Kitting, Bill of Materials, Receiving, Job Costing, and others. Standard reports, including PO expediting, stock status, PO status, low-**inventory** alert, and others are available, as well as an optional report generator for ad hoc queries. Tel: (502) 575-9870.

Fiscal Systems. Purchase Order Processing (POP) supports multiple users, password protection, multiple companies with up to 99 divisions or locations within each company, serial number recordkeeping; and tracts cost by lot purchased by date and quantity. POP accounting module is part of a seven-module package containing also General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Inventory Control, and Sales Order Processing. Modules may function independently or as an integrated package. Tel: (205) 772-8920; Fax: (205) 772-8590.

Fisher Technology Group. SupplyLink 3.0 offers online, multi-supplier shopping capabilities, requisition management, supplier interfaces, and stockroom management. It consists of four linked, but independent, modules that support most client/ server environments. The first, Electronic Mall, puts a library of customerselected supplier catalogs, specification sheets, safety bulletins, and other supplier-specific information at the fingertips of users. Requisition Management module handles all requisitions and order processing through all phases of the purchasing cycle seamlessly, through all departments. An automated approval process and restrictions based on commodity types and dollar limits allow purchasing to quickly route the order appropriately. Electronic Supplier Interface module replaces manual transmission of orders and receipts with interactive and traditional EDI capabilities between the buyer and suppliers. Module automates RFQs, response to RFQs, POs, PO acknowledgements, and price catalog updates. For smaller suppliers, who may not be EDI-ready, automated fax transmissions are available. Stockroom Management module provides automatic replenishment, forecasting, and inventory analysis capabilities. Tel: (800) 9260460; Fax: (412) 490-8010.

Fogle Computing. FCC Purchase Order system is an "add-on" product for the FCC Stockroom **Inventory** system. FCC PO automatically generates POs for items that are low in stock in Stockroom (which the user can edit prior to printing). POs also can be manually input for stock or non-stock items. POs are tracked until received, and receipts of stock items automatically update the Stockroom files. Purchasing history is maintained by stock number and by supplier. Layout of the PO is user defined. Companion product, FCC Stockroom **Inventory**, is a multi-user system that monitors **inventory** and allocates its usage to departments (cost centers) within the organization. At month's end, the system produces a report summarizing usage. It is useful in any situation where items are issued from **inventory**, rather than sold; such as forms, tools, and office supplies. Tel: (800) 845-7594; Fax: (704) 697-9944.

Grace Computer Resources. Total Procurement Management System (TPMS) is a true client/server purchasing system that allows purchasing to fully automate the procurement process. From Material Requests to Requisitions, to Request for Quotations, to Bids, to Bid Analysis, to Purchase Orders, TPMS gives purchasing everything necessary for the purchasing cycle. Requests and POs are automatically routed for approval based on user profiles. It also includes import capabilities from material management systems, and export capabilities to accounts payable, invoice processing systems, and material receipt systems. TPMS includes a fully functioned EDI management system and also supports document printing, faxing, and imaging. Tel: (770) 9391743; Fax: (770) 939-8561.

Greentree Software. GT Purchase PRO 5.0 is a full-function purchasing and materials management client/server system for Windows. It supports purchasing, receiving, requisitioning, remote requisitioning, quotations, inventory, invoice matching, importing, and exporting. Purchase PRO includes on-line authorization, supplier catalogs, supplier performance, contract price variance analysis, file cabinet, free form PO header, and line item text, multi-line account distribution, security levels, workflow scripting, e-mail, printing and direct faxing of POs and requisitions, Canadian GST/PST taxes, and minority supplier analysis. Purchasing, Requisitioning, Receiving, and Inventory can all be integrated into a single Materials Management application. Userdefinable workflow scripting allows users to tailor the system to follow their own business rules. Tel: (941) 954-2210; Fax: (914) 954-5095.

INFORMS. The Advanced Government Purchasing System (AGPS) is a solution that fulfills the purchasing needs for about one-fifth of state governments. AGPS has been refined/ enhanced and has been migrated for use by state agencies, city and county governments, larger school districts, colleges/universities, independent authorities, utility districts, etc. Current AGPS 6.0 is a comprehensive state-of-the-art purchasing system with a graphical user interface (windows-like) and/or text-based screens. All functions of the purchasing process have been automated, from initial requisition through solicitation, order generation, contract management, receiving, invoicing, and payment approval. A fundamental design aspect of AGPS is that data is entered into the system only once. From that point, it is automatically forwarded through the entire **procurement** cycle. Throughout the process, many functions occur automatically, such as generating bidders lists, printing orders, encumbrance of funds, three-way match, electronic approvals, bid tabulations, standard terms and conditions, etc. AGPS has a multi-layered security design that is enabled by user definable profiles. Numerous state-of-thebusiness processes (electronic commerce, online help, ad hoc report writing, etc.) have been included in the modular design. Tel: (334) 2770372; Fax: (334) 277-0557; E-mail: rogera@informs.com

Innovative Computer Concepts. Pinnacle is an advanced purchasing and materials management application designed for client/server enterprise-wide environments. Pinnacle incorporates today's supply chain practices, including electronic requisitioning, online catalogs, automated approvals and matching, EDI, event routing, workflow, and seamless integration with other systems. Pinnacle's GroupWorks product applies intelligent agent technology against the user's repetitive tasks, freeing him for valueadded work. ICC's total support package includes staff and technical training, systems conversion, project management, and systems integration. Tel: (800) 861-6019; Fax: (603) 644-1766; E-mail: ICC@incoco.com

Ironwood Computer Systems. FIXPRO is targeted at financial organizations, printers, office supply companies, distribution services, marketing organizations, and insurance companies. These organizations use FIXPRO to reduce costs by improving inventory management of inside consumables, forms, office supplies, and marketing materials. FIXPRO'S unique features include forms management and specifications, distribution, inventory control, purchasing, and print on demand. By printing on demand, complete with a faster requisition to purchase order cycle, inventories are reduced and customer satisfaction increased. Internal/external charges, Jetform, e-mail, and adhoc query are further supported by FIXPRO's base technology, SQL. Ironwood will customize FIXPRO to meet specific accounting rules in preparing financial data. Tel: (905) 890-4747; Fax: (905) 890-9107; E-mail: aasys@interlog.com

Kehlbeck & Associates. Purchasing Information Center (PIC) software has many new features based on its users' input. Buyers can make smart, timely decisions based on the information readily available from PIC. Everything a buyer normally has on his desk, in his desk, or in a file cabinet, is stored and easily accessible from PIC. Options include: Supplier Database, Bid List, Invitation to Bid (ITB), Automatic Conversion of ITB to PO, Purchase Order, Project Control, Receiving, Overdue, Expedite, Directory, Cash Flow, and Business Cards. Screen/Print capability is available on most options. Indefinite memo fields for long descriptions or specifications are included on each PO. More than 60% of the programs are customized to meet specific requirements of state governments, schools, offices, and industrial companies. Contract programming is provided. Tel: (502) 2283636; Fax: (502) 228-6086.

Lawson. Purchase Order system, an integrated module in the company's Open Enterprise Distribution Management and Materials Management packages, provides organizations with an easy-to-use system designed to assist in the management of procurements. Purchase order entry is accomplished with the use of blanket and standard orders, userdefined buyer limits, quantity and/or dollar receiving and invoicing limits, and multiple ship-to locations. Receiving handles serial numbers, lot numbers, inspections, reject/dispositions, freight allocations, and fourway matching with user-defined tolerances and exception processes. Lawson Purchase Order is fully integrated with its full suite of Webdeployable client/server business applications including financials, human resources, and distribution and materials management. Tel: (800) 477-1357; Fax: (612) 379-7141; E-mail: info@lawson.com

Legacy Systems Research. Cost-Benefit Analysis Tool helps buyers and their internal customers by ensuring that a

solid business case exists for important purchase decisions. Software provides the same powerful, lifecycle costing tools formerly available only to financial analysts to personnel at all levels of expertise, in an easy-to-use graphical interface. The tool works in five basic steps to walk the user through the cost benefit analysis process and documents the results in professionally formatted cost-benefit reports with graphs. Software is useful in make-or-buy, outsourcing, policy impact assessment, proposal evaluation, information technology **procurement**, feasibility studies, and more. Tel: (800) 920-1409; Fax: (208) 522-5401.

Loren Data. Electronic Commerce Purchasing System (ECPS), a PCbased electronic **procurement** management program, was developed for governmental and private buying agencies to streamline the **procurement** process. Modules handle requisitioning, small purchases, large procurements, electronic commerce, business daily posting and retrieval, contract management, blanket purchase agreements, supplier management, EDI transactions, and more. Its electronic mail design facilitates paperless communication between requisitioners, buyers, suppliers, legacy accounting systems, and outside information services. Tel: (800) 745-6736.

LS DataNet Systems. LS Business and Manufacturing software is a multi-user integrated software package for automation of materials and resource management. Graphical software manages requisitions, POs, supplements, quotations, blanket orders, releases, contracts, approvals, suppliers, expediting, receipts, stockrooms, assets, invoices, appropriations, charges, personnel, chemicals, and more. Security features include passwords, authorities, and audit trails. Advanced search features allow quick retrieval of items. Tel: (800) 738-3666; Fax: (970) 262-6271; E-mail: colo.com/Isdatanet @Macola. Macola Software Progression Series Accounting, Distribution, and Manufacturing are fully integrated and consist of 22 modules. Purchase Order enables users to analyze the quality, accuracy, and promptness of the delivery of all purchased materials. It helps ensure that the correct quantity and quality of materials is available when it is required. Features include: print POs, change POs, and process cancellations; report scheduled receivings; enter and edit POs and receivings; purchase materials to be drop shipped directly to customers; perform on-screen inquiries for each PO; analyze suppliers' quality, performance, and price variance; track receivings by lot and serial number; and use multiple supplier part numbers for each inventory item. Tel: (800) 468-0834. Fax: (614) 382-0239.

Manufacturing Information Systems. MISys Manufacturing System includes multi-level BOMs, integrated purchasing, **inventory** control of raw materials, resources, WIP, and finished goods; time-phased production scheduling, work orders, material requirements planning (MRP), job costing, revision control, multi-location, bar coding, and custom reporting. It works fully integrated with Ocomputer Associates s ACCPAC Plus (DOS) or CA-ACCpac/2000 (Windows) accounting software. Tel: (800) 833-1500; Fax: (802) 457-4602; E-mail: misys@sover.net

Microcomputer Specialists. MISys Manufacturing System offers integrated purchasing in its **Inventory** module, part of the MISys Manufacturing System for small to mid-sized manufacturers. **Inventory** module offers **inventory** control of raw materials and resources, WIP, finished goods, and multi-level bill of material. Users can add the Scheduling module, which provides work order, timephased production scheduling and MRP. Module provides extensive job costing and integration with ACCPAC Plus accounting. Tel: (800) 833-1500; Fax: (802) 457-4602.

Negotiator Pro. Negotiator Pro is a professional preparation and training tool that helps users create an effective plan for any negotiation by sparking creative thinking about strategy and tactics for success. It includes a small expert system to profile the personality and negotiating styles of each of the parties. This feature helps users identify and understand interpersonal issues that often influence a negotiation. There are three modules that can be added onto Negotiator Pro: Purchasing, Supplier Relations, and Inventory Control. Tel: (617) 738-9300; Fax: (617) 7343308.

Palmas Development. PURCHASING plus+ is a family of 12 fully integrated software modules designed to facilitate purchasing and related functions in medium to large organizations in all sectors. The main purchasing module includes PO generation/tracking/ expediting, receiving, item history tracking, department charge tracking, supplier performance, import/export (data interface), EDI ready, reporting, and system security. Optional modules include Faxing, Graphing, Requisitioning (including electronic routing/approval), Invoicing and AP Interface, Request For Quotation, Inventory Control, Bill of Materials, Asset Management, Preventive Maintenance, Forms Control, and Subscription Management. Tel: (800) 5063366; Fax: (416) 784-9411.

PeopleSoft Purchasing. Software automates requisitioning, purchasing, and receiving of raw materials, supplies, services, products, and assets, enabling buyers to manage sourcing, supplier selection, and ongoing contracts. PeopleSoft Purchasing is a module of PeopleSoft Distribution which also consists of **Inventory**, Order Management, and Distribution Requirements Planning modules. PeopleSoft Distribution reinvents traditional ways of performing distribution and purchasing functions. Users are empowered to make purchasing decisions accessing

past supplier history and pricing information, while tight integration with PeopleSoft Financials provides coordination with the accounting and administration functions critical to controlling purchasing decisions. Tel: (510) 225-3000; Fax: (510) 225-3100.

P.O. Express. PO. Express Base System includes Purchase Orders (many types and revisions), Electronic Signatures, PO Approvals, Faxenabled, System Tables, Supplier Management, Standard Forms, Catalog/Stock Items, Comments, Security, and Reports/Graphs. P.O. Express also offers add-on modules: On-Line/Remote Requests, Electronic Routing & Approvals, RFQs, Receiving, Inventory Control, Asset Management, File Load Utilities, API, EDI, and Custom Forms. Tel: (800) 793-5050; Email: sales@pox.com

PowerWay. Supplier Quality 9000 is a powerful, easy-to-use Windowsbased software package that allows purchasing to evaluate suppliers of goods and/or services. It assists with critical, cost-effective supplier assessments. Software is particularly valuable, PowerWay says, to departments who must demonstrate good supplier management for ISO 9000 compliance. With this product, users configure custom evaluations for varying classes of suppliers. Evaluations can be scheduled for periodic review. Information about a specific supplier, class of supplier, or supplier product can be displayed instantly and compared to other suppliers as a metric for performance. Tel: (800) 964-9004; Fax: (317) 577-0450.

Purchasing on-line. Software has been designed specifically to provide the time and information necessary to negotiate prices, reduce **inventory**, and improve quality. System eliminates paper requisitions and internal expediting by allowing requisitions to be entered, and their status reviewed, from any workstation. Requisitions are automatically queued for approval. Three levels of approval are provided with redirecting capability. Buyers may automatically attach line items or an entire requisition to a PO. System includes a suggested commodity coding scheme that provides for simple retrieval of non-stock items. Nonstock purchase analysis reports suggest items to be considered for stock or blanket POs. Supplier analysis reports track ontime performance as well as non-compliance. Tel: (800) 3883914; Fax: (305) 2944230.

Purchasing Pro Software. Purchasing Pro is a stand-alone program for use in large or small companies. Council Pro is custom software for multi-location purchasing. Programs automatically issue RFQs and POs electronically or traditionally on the user's forms. Program includes a supplier module for electronic and/or hard copy bid proposals. Programs include built-in comparison of bids and allocation screen for contract awards and automatic issuance of POs, or annual contract/blanket order releases and status reports. It sets up more than 200 forecasts, reports, and statistics which can be viewed on screen and sent to printer. Buyers can upload or download data from existing mainframe or PC systems. Tel: (214) 542-6055; Fax: (214) 542-5985.

Purchasing Solutions. First Rate is a cost-based supplier rating and evaluation software package that loads data from the user's existing purchasing, quality, and receiving systems; analyzes the data and provides a cost-based rating of each supplier. First Rate tracks each supplier's performance and compares it with other suppliers. When bid prices are entered into the system, First Rate will objectively evaluate bids based on a supplier's previous performance and recommend the supplier providing the best overall value. First Rate, the company says, is easy to use, and "will withstand the most stringent audit." First Rate will meet ISO 9000 requirements. Tel/Fax: (503) 617-1525; E-mail: 75321.1653@Compuserve.com

Purchasing Systems Technologies. POWER 1000 Purchasing System 2.0 includes all purchasing functions from requisition to receipt, for both stock and non-stock items, as well as blanket POs, complete buy history, inventory control, RFQ generation, quote tracking, expediting, sourcing, invoice matching, and a complete ad hoc report generation tool. New functions for version 2.0 include best buy for online sourcing, the Expedite Workbench to help speed expediting, quote analysis, and ISO 9000-compliant supplier performance rating. MRP reporting system, products file, and bills of material are designed to aid the buyer in predicting inventory needs and quantities. POWER 1000 Note Pad allows the buyer to track unrelated, supplier specific, or date specific notes, and generate tickle lists for future events. P-mail function is an internal e-mail system that can also be integrated into processes and functions. POWER 1000 offers extensive connectivity features and is compatible with EDI, fax, bar coding, and CD-ROM technologies. PST also offers the POWER 1000 Lite Purchasing System for non-manufacturing and MRO environments. Tel: (303) 790-0301; Fax: (303) 7902540.

Renaissance. International Logistics System (ILS/400) is an enterprise supply-chain management system designed to meet the requirements of manufacturing, wholesale, and distribution companies. ILS/400 is a multiwarehouse, multi-company, and a multi-currency product supported by Renaissance's installation, implementation, and maintenance service programs. Warehouse Master is a multi-warehouse system that has sophisticated inter/intra warehouse functionality, including bar coding, radio frequency, and EDI. Tel: (800) 281-2639; Fax: (516) 466-3341.

Rohbe. Rohbe specializes in PC software tools that rate supplier performance. Supplier Analysis System is designed to be an extension of an organization's existing MRP/purchasing/ERP system, and can be accessed easily by multiple groups within an organization. System can be tailored to any environment and is designed for easy interface to existing systems. It's also available with Inspection/ Corrective Action modules. Tel: (410) 715-0628; Fax: (410) 715-0685; E-mail: urohbe@clark.net

ROI Systems. ROI's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for small and mid-sized discrete manufacturers eases planning and production, purchasing, sales and service management, accounting, and engineering at one or more facilities. CTO, JIT, high-volume repetitive, make-tostock, and make-to-order are supported. ROI says it offers fast, out-of-thebox management reporting using COGNOS PowerPlay software and data warehousing. Integrated bar coded data collection, fax, e-mail, EDI, foreign currency exchange are used throughout. Tel: (800) 544-7849; Fax: (612) 595-9450.

Software Arts. pc/MRP is a complete business management system containing 10 integrated modules: Address, Inventory, Purchasing, Receiving, Sales, Invoicing, Bills of Materials, Stock Room, and Accounting (GL, AP, AR). Modules can be used on a standalone or integrated basis. pc/MRP can be configured to support manufacturing, distribution, or retail operations. pc/MRP is available in both DOS and Windows, and can be upgraded to multi-user DOS networks such as **ONOVELL**. Purchasing module allows the user to enter, edit, and print POs and reports. POs can be faxed directly from the user's PC. Address and part number info can be scrolled and imported from their respective modules. More than 100 purchasing reports can be generated including consolidated ordering requirements, all overdue POs, purchase price variation, and purchase history reports. In addition, POs can be created automatically from existing sales orders. Tel: (408) 248-6445; E-mail: www.pcmrp.com

Software 2000. Software 2000 series of Materials Management 2000 consists of Purchase Management 2000, Inventory Control 2000, Customer Order Processing 2000, Accounts Payable 2000 (with Matching), and Electronic Exchange 2000 for EDI and fax. Purchase Management 2000 handles the **procurement** cycle from requisition through supplier performance analysis. Products within the MM2000 series can be used in an integrated or independent mode. Features include on-demand criteria-weighted supplier performance analysis, userdefinable requisition and PO types, sourcing screens, internal/ external notes, and requisition-approval processing. Tel: (508) 778-2000; Fax: (508) 790-6784.

Solomon Software. Solomon IV for Windows accounting information system offers a full suite of accounting, operations, and distribution modules, including a Purchasing module to help maintain a consistent and organized relationship with suppliers. With this module, purchasing can quickly produce POs and receipt records. Purchasing module features multiple order types, flexible receipt processing, the ability to purchase and receive kits or kit components, supplier performance analysis, receipt quantities variance control, and automatic voucher creation from PO receipt entry. Tel: (419) 424-0422; Fax: (419) 424-3400.

Structured Computer Sys tems. REALITY addresses all business functions in the supply chain of complex purchasing and materials management environments. REALITY P&MM offers Web-enabled requisitioning with access to approved suppliers' Web-based catalogs; userdefined multi-level approval routing schemes; realtime budget checking, encumbrance and pre-encumbrance accounting with API capability to external accounting systems; bids and quotes creation, tabulation, and award; multi-warehouse inventory management; fixed assets management including bar codeenabled physical inventory control; powerful purchasing automation including exclusive "Lights Out Purchasing" capability; electronic commerce using X.12 EDI supporting more than one dozen transactions and auto-fax communications. REALITY A/P offers hands-free three-way invoice match; flexible voucher management and payment cycles; full support for employee expenses including pre-travel authorizations; X.12 EDI support for invoices and payments. Tel: (860) 677-0222; Fax: (860) 677-7157.

Tangible Vision. Imprimis is an Enterprise Resource Planning/Manufacturing Execution System that supports multicountry, multi-facility, multi-currency, and multilanguage environments, and addresses Make-to-Order operations. Key purchasing features include purchase requisitions with multilevel authorization, automatic conversion of purchase requisitions to POs, stock reorder planning, automatic creation of POs from stock reorder plan, blanket POs, PO reservation, automated purchasing/credit card payment, centralized purchasing capability, supplier certification, supplier performance tracking, receiving, incoming material inspection, and batch/serial tracking. Tel: (708) 969-7517; Fax: (708) 969-7523.

Taranto & Associates. Accounts Payable/Purchase Order tracks and controls the bill-paying functions. It includes a Purchase Order module to track outstanding orders. It controls when invoices are paid, prints checks, distributes expenses, and reconciles bank statements. It records how much is bought from each supplier and maintains a

complete audit trail of bills and payments. It is a standalone application or can be integrated to **Inventory** Control for merchandise ordering and stock control. It also can be integrated to General Ledger for automatic posting of distributed expenses and cash. Features include: Full Purchase Order module for tracking purchases; accepts handwritten or offline checks for supplier analysis and expense distribution; selects bills for payment by individual invoice, and by supplier and/or due date; full cash control including reports of open items, with aging, and close items (paid invoices); full audit trail; easyto-void checks and re-open invoices; prints checks and check **register**; supplier analysis report with current and prior year totals; provides for canceled, voided, and outstanding checks for bank statement reconciliation; distributes expenses and purchases, sorts by account number, and lists on account summary report; includes journals from other subsidiary ledgers, if integrated. Tel: (800) 5228649; Fax: (415) 472-2673.

Technical Services Associates. Features of GATEWAY C/S include on-line requisitioning, RFQs, multiple order types and revisions, and extensive validation process, routing and approvals with electronic signatures, standard laser forms, and reporting (with graphic interface). Throughout the entire system, GATEWAY C/S provides automated data entry through the use of catalog, stock, **inventory**, supplier, and system tables databases. To further tailor the system, modules such as Receiving, A/P Interface, Import/Export Utilities, **Inventory** Options, Asset Tracking, and Documents Manager are also available. Software has capability to communicate via multiple currencies/languages, e-mail, fax, custom laser forms, and EDI. Tel: (800) 3881415; Fax: (717) 691-5690; E-mail: info@tsagate.com

WEFA Group. COSTER monitors suppliers' input costs, and selects/ develops appropriate escalators for contracts. As a budgeting tool, software presents insight into historical and future price changes for materials purchased. It is also a graphical package that provides capability to visualize price trends. Tel: (610) 6902676; Fax: (610) 490-2770; E-mail: wefa.com/cphome.html

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